

J.S. combat ships to the Indian Ocean

WASHINGTON, March 5 (AP) — The United States plans to have ships full of combat equipment in the Indian Ocean by July, ready to move rapidly against Soviet or other military forces, congress was told today. Deputy Secretary of Defence Graham Claytor said present plans are to station a force of seven or eight ships probably at the U.S. fueling station at Diego Garcia at a cost of \$85 million. The ships would be the first visible U.S. military response to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. They would be able to carry marine corps armour, artillery and other large equipment to any port near a battle to supply combat troops being flown in, Mr. Claytor said. He said the ships would supply a marine amphibious brigade of about 10,000 men plus several jet fighter squadrons with equipment fuel and water. He made a brief public statement to the house armed services seapower sub-committee before giving the sub-committee details in a closed session.

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AMMAN, THURSDAY MARCH 6, 1980 — RABI'ATHANI 19, 1400

Saudi denies border clash with Sanaa

BAHRAIN, March 5 (R) — Saudi Arabia today denied reports of a border clash with North Yemen last month in which diplomatic sources claimed at least five North Yemeni troops were killed. Saudi Information Minister Mohammad Abdo Yamani told the official Saudi Press Agency there had been no border clashes with either North or South Yemen and Saudi Arabia had received no formal protest from North Yemen about any such incident. Senior Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut said yesterday that Saudi Arabia's ambassador in the North Yemeni capital of Sanaa, Sheikh Al Harithi, had been summoned to the foreign ministry to receive a protest note about the clash. They said the fighting, which involved small arms and light artillery, flared in the third week of February when Saudi troops occupied a North Yemeni position at Al-Qub'u on the border between the two countries. Dr. Yamani said Saudi Arabia's relations with North Yemen were excellent and those with South Yemen were normal.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Hoss denounces Lawzi's murder

BEIRUT, March 5 (Agencies) — Lebanese Premier Salim Al Hoss denounced as "a horrible crime against freedom and the press" the murder of Lebanese editor-publisher Salim Al Lawzi.

His body was discovered yesterday in a forest south of Beirut 10 days after he was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen on the road to Beirut International airport. He was shot through the head, security sources said.

Mr. Lawzi was the editor and publisher of the London-based Arabic-language weekly Al Hawadess.

In a statement broadcast over state-run Beirut Radio today, Premier Hoss said, Mr. Lawzi's murder was "a horrible crime which shakes the conscience of every human being. It is a crime against freedom and the press in Lebanon and the Arab World."

The president of the Lebanese Publishers' Association, Mr. Riad Aha, said: "The crime is a major disaster for the press, for freedom and for Lebanon and I do not believe there will remain a press in Lebanon."

Mr. Lawzi was abducted on Feb. 24 on his way to catch a flight to London after a brief visit to Lebanon. His wife, Omayya, was seized but the kidnappers released her. Security officials would not comment on newspaper reports that Mr. Lawzi had been tortured before being shot. But the public prosecutor filed charges of kidnapping.

U.S. house approves aid for Tunisia

WASHINGTON, March 5 (R) — The House of Representatives voted 389-7 today to approve a resolution calling for U.S. aid for Tunisia to help it meet its threat from neighbouring Libya.

The resolution, which now goes to the Senate, said recent "foreign-inspired" attempts to undermine Tunisia's stability threatened international peace and security as well as U.S. interests in the Mediterranean.

It said Congress believed the United States "should take steps to help Tunisia to meet this unprovoked threat to its freedom and security by furnishing appropriate levels of economic and security assistance."

The resolution, proposed by Democrat Clement Zablocki of Wisconsin, chairman of the house foreign affairs committee, does not compel the government to take any action and left it up to the administration to decide on levels of aid.

First Egyptian commercial flight lands in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, March 5 (Agencies) — The first Egyptian commercial flight to Israel landed in Tel Aviv today, but the plane belonged to a British charter company and carried only two Egyptian tourists. The remaining passengers were Israelis.

Representatives of the Egyptian Nefertiti line, which will fly the Cairo Tel Aviv route, said that from next Sunday their planes would make the trip and with Egyptian crews.

The Israeli El Al flight to Cairo was inaugurated on Monday.

Each airline will operate twice weekly flights, El Al on Mondays and Thursdays and Nefertiti on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as part of the peace treaty between the two countries signed last year, which declined to fly to Egypt to avoid losing landing rights in Arab countries opposing the Israeli-Egyptian peace process.

There was no airport ceremony, but after a 45-minute layover the plane took off for Cairo with 20 passengers.

The 170-dollar round-trip fare offered by both El Al and Nefertiti is less than one-third the cost of round-trip travel between the countries, via Greece, before direct links were established.

NCC member Rimawi dies during debate

AMMAN, March 5 (JT) — Mr. Abdullah Rimawi, member of the National Consultative Council (NCC) died today of a heart attack during the council's regular session. He was 61.

Mr. Rimawi, a former minister of state, was born in Beit Rima, near Ramallah, in 1927. He is survived by his widow, two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Rimawi obtained a B.Sc. degree in science and mathematics from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and a law diploma from the Law School in Jerusalem.

During the British Mandate in Palestine, he taught science in secondary schools (Al Amiriyah in Jaffa and Al Najah in Nablus) for five years. In 1948, he became director of publications for the Arab Higher Committee in Jerusalem.

In 1949, he published a newspaper (Al Baath) in Ramallah, which continued appearing for one year. He joined the Arab Socialist Baath Party in 1950 and became its secretary general. The party has since been dissolved in Jordan.

Mr. Rimawi was elected member of the lower house of parliament for three terms between 1950-1957. He was appointed minister of state for foreign affairs in the cabinet of the late Prime Minister Sulaiman Nabulsi in 1956.

He left the Baath Party in 1959 following a dispute among its members to form his own wing — the Arab Revolutionary Socialist Baath Party. He resigned from this Baath faction in 1962.

Mr. Rimawi was appointed by His Majesty King Hussein to the National Consultative Council in April 1978.

He practised law for many years.

"He was the spirit of the National Consultative Council,"



Abdullah Rimawi

one of his friends told the Jordan Times after the death of Mr. Rimawi today.

Mr. Rimawi was well-known as one of the most outspoken members of the NCC.

Friends seemed to agree that he died the way he would have wanted to. An observer at the NCC said today that the longtime lawyer had just made a speech denouncing President Carter's recent repudiation of the U.S. vote in the U.N. Security Council condemning Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

"Usually," the observer said, "Abdullah made very impassioned and emotional speeches. This time he was not excited. He said that the Arabs should not trust U.S. policy and that the U.S. has always been out to get the Arabs."

"He made a motion that the NCC should condemn President Carter's statement. The motion was seconded and approved. Abdullah sat down and, minutes afterwards, his head fell back. He had died of a massive heart attack — it was over very quickly."

Another observer said: "He died the way he would have wanted — cursing the Americans. He had kept until today the political opinions he had formed when he was 20. He stood for the dissolution of Israel, Arab nationalism and pan-Arab unity."

Giscard arrives in UAE

ABU DHABI, March 5 (R) — French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing switched his sights to regional security today as he arrived in Abu Dhabi for talks with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) president Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

Earlier discussions in his whistle-stop tour of Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar were dominated by France's decision to back Arab demands for self-determination for Palestinians as part of an overall Middle East settlement.

The Palestinian question figured again at the first meeting between Mr. Giscard d'Estaing and Sheikh Zayed, but it did not appear that France was planning any immediate new Middle East initiative.

The two leaders were expected to devote a good deal of their talks to regional security and in particular to protecting the vital oil tanker route from the Gulf to the open sea through the Horn of Gulf Strait.

The UAE, a seven-state federation formed in 1971, has coastline both west and east of Oman's enclave which commands the strait. It is well placed to judge any threat to the oil route created by east-west tension following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Sheikh Zayed seeks to keep the region free of big power rivalries. In an interview with French Television this week he attacked U.S. promises to protect the Gulf by force, and said the Americans would do better to send their troops to Afghanistan.

"All is well in the Gulf and it has no need of American or any other forces," he said.

President Giscard d'Estaing this week has backed this position repeatedly. Joint communiqués on his talks with the rulers of Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar all referred to the need for the Gulf states to ensure their own security and avoid being drawn into a global power game.

A Franco-Qatari joint communiqué, issued after Mr. Giscard d'Estaing's departure from Doha, reiterated France's recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination "in their homeland within the framework of an overall (Middle East) peace settlement," the Gulf News Agency reported.

The agency said the communiqué also called for Israel's withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in the 1967 Middle East war and a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing broke new French diplomatic ground when the joint communiqué issued after his weekend talks with Kuwaiti Ruler Sheikh Jaber Al

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Arabs revile Carter for U.S. M.E. policy double about-face

BEIRUT, March 5 (Agencies) — The Arab media, official and non-official, today reviled President Carter for his mistake on the U.N. vote on Jewish settlement, dubbing him a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and simply "unfair."

"What can you expect from a bungling president who has sold himself out to the (Israeli) Zionists?" the Iraqi state radio said.

The Saudi Arabian government-run radio reported news of what it said was President Carter's about-face regarding the U.S. vote at the U.N. Security Council condemning settlements in Arab territories, occupied by the Israelis since the 1967 war.

The radio, quite unusually, added to that report a phrase that Muslims utter in moments of despair: "Inna lillah wa inna ilaihe rajioun," or "We belong to God and to God we return."

The Saudi comment was variously translated here as: "May God have mercy on Carter's soul. We throw up our hands in dealing with Carter, there's nothing we can do but to turn to God to take care of Carter."

Arab newspapers frontpaged the U.S. vote in favour of condemning the setting up of Jewish settlements in Israeli-occupied Arab lands. These also played up President Carter's written statement in which he declared that the vote was a mistake, a result of

misunderstanding caused by a breakdown in communications.

The papers also scorned Secretary of State Cyrus Vance for "accepting responsibility for the failure in communications."

Beirut's independent daily Al Anwar editorially admonished Mr. Carter for "renegeing on the settlement issue, just as he had done earlier on his support for a national home for the Palestinians."

The leading Lebanese newspaper Al Nahar denounced President Carter's stance as a "comical tragedy."

"Mr. Carter's about-face will increase suspicions among the Arabs about U.S. intentions regarding the Camp David peace process between Egypt and Israel," Al Nahar Editor Michel Abu Jaoudé wrote. "It will sharpen Arab rejection of American policy at a time when France and Britain are moving closer to Palestinian and Arab realities."

Deploping the president's about-face on the settlements issue, Mr. Abu Jaoudé asked: "Is Mr. Carter a Dr. Jekyll or a Mr. Hyde, or both?"

In Syria, newspapers said the Arabs should no longer tolerate anyone entertaining hopes that Washington "would change its anti-Arab attitude."

Mr. Carter has precipitated an impasse that could lead to a crisis in Arab-American relations, Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Aziz Hussein said.

Mr. Carter is merely a toy in Israel's hand, said the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anba. "We have discovered that Carter is a coward."

Another Kuwaiti daily, Al Qabas, urged the Arabs to consider hostility to Israel and hostility to America as one inseparable struggle.

Syria and PLO official spokesman Abdul Mohsen Abu Maizar strongly denounced President Carter's move in separate statements.

"Mr. Carter's only loyalty, from which he does not back down, is to Israel," a senior Syrian government official said. "That is his support for Israel, for its expansionist policy and its occupation of Arab territories," the official added.

Mr. Abu Maizar considered the president's "about-face" a new proof that the American leadership cannot deal with honesty in matters concerning the faith of other peoples.

"How can we trust this hostile policy regarding the basic causes of the Arabs and Muslims?" Mr.

Abu Maizar asked.

He called on Arab and Islamic countries to "re-consider your attitudes in distinguishing between friends and enemies in light of Carter's policy towards the Palestinian people."

But American Jewish leader, who met the President later, said he had emphasised that the vote on Saturday for the resolution was a mistake and would not happen again.

Mr. Herbert Berman, treasurer of the World Jewish Congress, said the reversal of policy was "absolutely incredible" and he could not believe Ambassador Donald McHenry was unaware of his government's policy when he voted in the Security Council.

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has since taken personal responsibility for a "failure in communications" which led to Mr. McHenry voting in favour of the resolution rather than abstaining.

The PLO's observer at the United Nations, Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi, called yesterday for a meeting of Islamic states to consider the implications of the about-turn. He said the lack of communication was an excuse "even the least

developed of the developing countries would be ashamed to use."

Diplomatic sources in Washington said the president's statement followed Israeli hints that they might reassess their attitude to the autonomy talks in the light of what they saw as American support for Arab positions.

Ambassador McHenry reacted angrily to the shift, saying it left Washington with "the worst of both worlds — angering both Arabs and Israelis."

He told reporters he saw nothing objectionable in the resolution's references to Jerusalem, which the White House cited as the reason for the reversal. He said all were drawn from previous statements approved by the United States.

In Moscow, the Soviet Union rejected President Carter's explanation that the vote was a mistake, was actually "striving in every possible way to calm down the ruling circles of Israel."

Israeli cabinet reported divided on settlements

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 5 (AP) — Israel's government is once again sharply divided on the issue of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, Israeli newspapers said Wednesday in reporting shouting matches between Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Defence Minister Ezer Weizman.

The reports were leaked from yesterday's closed cabinet meeting at which the ministers rejected the U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Israel's settlement policy and said Israel felt "deep resentment" that the United States had voted for the resolution.

Although the cabinet was unanimous in stating Israel's "inalienable right" to settle Jews in the West Bank, the Haaretz newspaper reported that Mr. Weizman said settlements were not always a security requirement, as Israel often claims. The Jerusalem Post added that Mr. Weizman said Israel "is making everyone sick and tired of us" and other papers said he opposed the strong criticism of Washington.

Israeli papers reported that Mr. Weizman was leading at least four other ministers in the 17-member cabinet in opposing a move to put Jewish settlers in the Arab town of Hebron, the second largest in the West Bank.

The cabinet's decision last month that Jews in principle could live in Hebron led to the Security Council resolution condemning Israel's settlement policy. Next Sunday the cabinet is slated to consider when and where to put settlers in the Arab town.

Mr. Weizman and Mr. Begin have clashed before over settlements, with Mr. Weizman opposing plans to put many small Jewish villages in the occupied territory in favour of fewer but larger settlements. Mr. Weizman voted against the cabinet's decision last June to put the Elon Moreh settlement near Nablus, the largest Arab town in the West Bank.

The opposition Labour Party's Davar newspaper quoted Mr. Weizman as saying during the cabinet session: "Not every settlement is needed for security."

Haaretz said Mr. Weizman was defending President Carter, who sent Mr. Begin a letter apologising for a mistake in the American vote in the Security Council. Mr. Weizman is known to favour Mr. Carter for re-election and apparently was trying to soften the text of Israel's reaction to the U.S. vote.

Israeli farmers, police clash during protest against prices

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 5 (AP) — Israeli farmers, perhaps the hardest hit by triple digit inflation, tried to storm the Knesset today to press demands for higher food prices.

Police in riot helmets and armed with truncheons and plastic shields turned water cannons on a crowd estimated by police at 10,000 and by Israel Radio as more than 20,000.

The farmers retreated throwing dead chickens, tomatoes and eggs at police and into the trimmed garden of the Knesset courtyard, and none of the demonstrators got past the Knesset fence.

The Knesset's sergeant at arms, Mr. Yitzhak Ben Gal, said it was "the biggest and wildest demonstration with the most violent behaviour" that he had seen. He said he had been struck in the stomach by a stone.

The army radio station said two Knesset guards, one policeman and two demonstrators had been injured. No arrests were reported. Some of the rioting farmers were seen struggling with mounted policemen.

The farmers complain that the government is importing cheap produce while cutting subsidies

and credit for local farmers. Placards called for the resignation of Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, whom farmers accuse of neglecting agricultural policy while concentrating on building new Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territory. Mr. Sharon was not in the country.

Demonstrators carried mock coffins draped in black and with signs saying "we are starving to death." One flower grower said his income covered only one-fifth of the \$1,250 a month he pays on loans, while further loans were unavailable.

The government announced late yesterday a 15 per cent increase in milk and frozen meat prices in a move apparently aimed to head off the demonstration. But the farmers were not satisfied, and hundreds of buses rolled into occupied Jerusalem from all corners of the country. Frozen meat now ranges from \$1.77-2.94 a pound, prices the farmers say are below the average prices in Europe and the United States. Milk went up to 55 cents a quart from 48 cents.

For years farmers were the pats of the economy. They received heavy subsidies and easy loans

from previous Labour governments. But the free-market government of Prime Minister Menachem Begin found it was printing money partly to cover the subsidies, thus adding thrust to an inflation rate that reached 111 per cent last year.

The devaluation of the Israeli currency did not match inflation. So even producers for export lost money.

With imports holding down consumer prices, said Turkey farmer Arich Ben-Yehuda the consumer paid 20 per cent more while the farmer paid 150 per cent more in production costs.

Earlier this year the farmers took the government to the supreme court and won a suit to force the government to sell imported meat at its true cost.

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Communications breakdown

"The United States vote in the United Nations was approved with the understanding that all references to Jerusalem would be deleted. The failure to communicate this clearly resulted in a vote in favour of the resolution rather than abstention." -- Jimmy Carter, March 3, 1980.

IT IS STILL taking us a while to absorb this extraordinary apology from the President of the United States. Here in Jordan, the shock of our disappointment has been magnified by the death of a distinguished parliamentarian in the chamber of the National Consultative Council after delivering an impassioned condemnation of the American betrayal.

President Carter's renunciation of his country's vote in the U.N. Security Council on Saturday in favour of a resolution condemning Israel's settlement practices in the occupied Arab territories and demanding the dismantling of settlements the illegality of which the U.S. has all along acknowledged, is unsatisfactory in every respect.

If the repudiation came as a result of Zionist pressure, or solely with a view to mollifying Jewish voters (on the day before two Presidential primary elections were to be held), then it was an act of base and mean cynicism.

If the repudiation was really impelled by the circumstances which Mr. Carter outlined, then one can only marvel at such a breakdown in communications from a country which has put a man on the moon and beamed back colour television pictures from distant planets.

What worries us most, looking at Mr. Carter's statement, are signs of a very real and very basic misapprehension on the part of the United States, the self-appointed "peace broker" in the Middle East, of the most fundamental issues at stake in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Chief among these issues is that of Jerusalem, on which the Carter administration seems determined to take an unequivocal stand without anything approaching an adequate appreciation of the facts, or the emotional content, of the matter. To argue, as Mr. Carter did in his disastrous statement, that Jerusalem's "status should be determined in the negotiations for a comprehensive peace settlement"—presumably meaning the fruitless and pathetic negotiations which the U.S. is currently promoting between Egypt and Israel—is to ensure that there will never be such a comprehensive settlement, and that the Holy City's status will be determined only according to the will of the Israelis who have annexed its Arab sector by force and proceeded to do everything possible to alter its historic character.

Finally, we must point out the degree of dissimulation involved in the first sentence of Mr. Carter's statement quoted above. The U.S. delegate participated actively in the drafting of the resolution which was presented to the Security Council and ultimately approved unanimously. The council session, called by Jordan and Morocco, was delayed a day to accommodate the wishes of the U.S. delegation and to "water down" the wording of the draft so as to enable the U.S. to vote "aye." To claim otherwise is a lie.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I: America's strange repudiation of its own vote does not weaken the U.N. Security Council's resolution stating a unanimous international position refusing to recognise the legitimacy of Israeli settlement policy and asserting that the way to deal with it is through dismantling the existing settlements.

As for the American position pronounced by President Carter on Tuesday, namely that the U.S. opposes the settlement policy but does not call for the dismantling of the existing settlements—it is a strange position, and in effect, it means that Israel can do whatever it likes, and all the Arabs can get from the U.S. will be mere verbal criticism of these practices. This criticism does not even reach the level of calling on Israel to remove the products of its unacceptable practices.

Thus, Mr. Carter has clarified the substance of his policy on the issue, which is to give Israel free rein and assistance in implementing its expansionist and settlement policy while it tries to mollify the Arabs with soft criticisms of Israeli designs and practices which have no real impact.

The American repudiation under Israeli pressure of the U.N. vote is a clear proof that the U.S. is not qualified to deal with the issue by itself. This situation is a clear summons to the international community to bear its responsibility and to the European nations to act seriously, to refer the issue back to the U.N. General Assembly or the Security Council. This will enable the world community, including the Soviet Union, to find a way to a just and comprehensive peace without being deterred by the threats of Rabin or anybody else.

AL DUSTOUR: Hasn't President Carter himself announced on a number of occasions that Israel's settlement policy contradicts with the search for peace and the Geneva conventions? Then what is wrong with denouncing the settlement policy?

Do the presidential elections direct Mr. Carter's policy? Because Mr. Edward Kennedy has defended the Israeli settlements, President Carter quickly revised his previous actions, including the American stand taken at the Security Council. Where are the Carter ethics with which he tried to fill the world since he came to the White House?

In this case, who governs in the White House? And in such a situation, which Mr. Carter should we believe? Is it the one who condemns the settlements and Israeli expansion in the occupied Arab territories, or the one who provides unlimited support to Israel and bless its settlement actions in those territories?

It is high time, we believe, for the Arab countries to come to know the realities of the American attitude, which is biased in favour of Israel. The time is ripe for them to take a firm and unified position. This is the only way to restore Arab rights as they are faced with the two-faced American attitude and Israeli intransigence.

PM describes new laws on customs tariffs, income tax

AMMAN, March 5 (JT) -- The government is drafting a new law on income tax and another on customs tariffs. It will put both drafts before the National Consultative Council as soon as they are ready, Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Sharaf said today.

Sharif Abdul Hamid said in a statement of policy which he read before the NCC that the new income tax law would be more equitable towards middle and lower income groups, ensure more effective methods of collection and encourage savings and investment in productive ventures.

New customs tariffs will be designed to regulate local production; tariffs will be stiff on luxury goods and reasonable on essentials.

Addressing the NCC session today the prime minister said the government aims at controlling current expenses and will try to balance expenditure with local revenues in a bid to reduce the margin of deficit in the annual budget.

The government, he said, will try to control the flow of surplus financial liquidity by absorbing it into national investment.

Hard decisions now

It is better for everyone—government and people alike -- to take hard decisions now so as to avoid any suffering or grave consequences later, the prime minister said.

"We cannot avoid the fact that our economy suffers from poor natural resources and limited productive capacity, and therefore the government is determined to fight and control inflation and its causes—whether they are due to an imbalance in the system of demand and supply or to excessive consumption on the part of individuals, which is incompatible with the country's capabilities and future aspirations," he said.

Reviewing the reasons behind the current inflation, the prime minister said Jordan is faced with the fact that it imports the majority of products that are consumed locally. "Therefore," he said, "the best we can do is to increase national production and control consumption and inflation."

The Prime Minister announced that the government is concerned with securing homes for families with limited incomes at reasonable cost and will carry out programmes for constructing up to 3,000 housing units every year for their benefit. In preparation for the programme the government has conducted a general survey of families' incomes, and now intends to distribute housing units to families with JD 1,000 annual income or less, the cost of which can be repaid in easy monthly instalments over 30 years.

Modern and economical construction methods will be employed in carrying out such



Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf

programmes, which include providing the housing estates with all utilities and public services. The Housing Bank and other financial institutions will lend out the funds for building the housing units.

New buses

As for public transport, the government will soon import 100 more big buses for use inside cities and on highways. In a drive to organise basic services, all trade unions, and labour unions are invited to cooperate with the government for the benefit of the public.

Referring to food supply problems, the Prime Minister said the government will reorganise the Agricultural Marketing Organisation with a view to helping it carry out the role for which it was created. He said work is nearing completion on building grading and packing centres for fruit and vegetables; and a government committee is studying transactions in the wholesale market place in Amman to put an end to manipulation and profiteering.

The government has also instructed the Jordan Cooperative Organisation to purchase agricultural products directly from the farmers and then market the crops in major cities for nominal profit. The reorganising of food supplies includes also the production of eggs and chickens, and the government is in the course of setting up a company for marketing them

at reasonable prices.

The government is also studying the possibility of establishing a company to specialise in raising livestock with the purpose of making available sufficient quantities of meat and dairy products for the local market.

Parallel markets

The government will soon set up a "parallel market" for the sale of basic food supplies, Sharif Abdul Hamid said. The main products to be sold at such a market will be basic foodstuffs such as meat and dairy products, flour, sugar and cooking oil. This market, he said, will trade under the same conditions as private stores. The aim of such a market, the Prime Minister said, is to determine the real cost of various products with a view to limiting profits and putting an end to monopolies.

The government will, however, continue to support the activities of the civil and military consumer corporations, and will continue to subsidise bread and meat, sugar and rice.

Despite the fact that most products bear price tags, the government believes that fixing prices could be expanded to include such products as canned food, imported cooking oil and frozen vegetables and particularly products needed mostly by children.

There should be a strict control over prices and the government will be dealing firmly with violators of supply regulations. This measure means imposing fines, and in some cases withdrawing trade licenses.

The government is currently subsidising oil products by JD 30 million and pays \$26.50 for every imported barrel of oil—which is the world market price.

Gas prices low

Though Arab states are granting Jordan financial assistance to help support its steadfastness, Jordan receives no aid for oil. In its recent decision to raise petroleum prices the government was careful to impose a relatively small increase on the price of kerosene and butane gas because these are consumed mainly by families with limited incomes. A larger increase was imposed on the prices of petrol, aircraft fuel and asphalt because these are consumed by families with a higher income and by companies.

The recent reduction of 100 fils a kilo on imported meat, which is already subsidised by the government, cost the treasury an additional JD 800,000 annually. Another JD 100,000 burden for the treasury came with the reduction of the price of rice. Despite the increase in sugar prices on the world markets, the government will continue to subsidise this commodity by JD 2 million until the end of this year.

In a drive to encourage farming, the government will this year purchase locally produced wheat for a price well above that of the world market. In this respect the government will be subsidising flour and wheat by JD 4 million, bringing the total subsidy for bread to JD 14 million and the total subsidy on food supplies to JD 18 million.

The prime minister ended by saying that if every citizen saved 40 fils a day, the country could build a small factory or a school every two weeks.

NOTEBOOK

America, Palestine and misunderstanding

By Rami G. Khouri

THE VULGAR explanation from President Carter about his country's vote in the U.N. Security Council condemning Israel's settlements in occupied Arab territory leaves one wondering whether there is any point at all at which the United States might extricate itself from the servility to Israel that seems still to determine its actions, more than 35 years after the Palestinians have been asked to pay the price for the gruesome Jewish experience under Nazi Germany.

Mr. Carter, the American president, found it appropriate personally to announce that America's support for the Security Council resolution condemning Israeli settlement policies was—and listen carefully to this—a mistake, based on a misunderstanding.

We are told that the United States wanted to support the resolution, but only if it excluded any mention of Jerusalem. The logical extension to this kind of thinking is for the Arab World to say that we support a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, but a withdrawal excluding Kabul, whose status must be left open to future negotiations.

The obsequious sensitivity of the United States to the predatory appetite of post-war Zionist territorial aggrandisement is shocking not only because it reflects the lack of a coherent American policy towards the dual questions of Palestinian and Zionist national aspirations, but also because the Americans ask the rest of the world to overlook this gross deficiency but also to remain complacent in the face of alleged American impartiality in brokering a Middle East peace.

The entire framework of peace that the United States insists on pushing down our throats is rendered meaningless and even insulting by this enormous omission, this conspicuous lack of a consistent, intelligent or morally defensible American policy towards the issues of sovereignty and nationhood in a contested Palestine.

Why, one asks, does Mr. Carter want Jerusalem left out of any international condemnation of Israeli settlement practices in occupied Palestinian land? Because Jerusalem is not part of Palestine? But it is, it very much is, just as Plains is very much a part of the state of Georgia, though we do not claim to have sufficient tendencies to moral and intellectual fraudulence to suggest to the people of Georgia that they should leave the city of Plains out of any process that affirms the political unity, geographical continuity and temperamental cohesion of their single state.

The idiotic explanation of Mr. Carter is not so important for its inherent confusion and carelessness, but rather for how it reflects the American penchant for running away from the Palestinian issue, instead of embracing it vigorously, as, in the final analysis, the people of the United States embraced the difficult issues of racism, sexism and their excesses in Vietnam.

Mr. Carter and his people will have to decide soon if they believe in the reality of an authentic Palestinian people, for whom territorial claims must be settled and mechanisms of national sovereignty activated.

If the United States believes this is indeed the case, then it has an international responsibility to act on these beliefs, and not, as it has done this week, to act as if the concept of Palestinian nationhood and peoplehood were a vague, Platonic, intangible idea that requires decades or centuries of contemplation before it can ever aspire to practicality.

It will do nobody any good in the long run—and it will someday do the American people much harm—if the government of the United States continues to dally with the reality of an Israeli occupation for which it must start to bear indirect responsibility—no less than the Soviet Union is responsible for the occupation of Afghanistan,

albeit more directly.

The inexorable trend of the history of the past eight decades has been to affirm the strength and durability of the collective political, cultural and national sentiment of millions of people who are themselves Palestinians.

When Mr. Carter was born some five or six decades ago, there were only about one million Palestinians. Today, there are nearly four million. He should keep this in mind the next time he decides on how his country will vote on a resolution condemning the practices of an occupying Zionist power that is only kept on its feet by an increasingly generous aid of the United States.

In another five decades, there will be ten million people who call themselves Palestinians, and this too, will not rest until they have the same right to nationhood, sovereignty and, above all, respect that are enjoyed by all other people of the world. They, too, will insist that Jerusalem is of Palestine, and always has been, and always will be, since even before there was a Plains, Georgia.

The dynamics that allow the occupation of Palestine to continue unabated stem from the amorphous aspirations of a pre-Zionist ideology, but are sustained ultimately by equally undefined attitudes in Washington. It is the sad lesson we learn again this week.

The question remains, however, for the Arab World to answer, and for every Palestinian answer: What does one do in the face of Carter's latest monstrous insult? The pattern the Arab World is legendary. But for how many more years can Palestinian schoolchildren maintain an elemental degree of psychological posture in the face of a universe that relegates their basic education to the vagaries of charity donations, and their very minimal nutritional requirements to the uncertainties of the erratic philanthropic impulses?

At what point does it become appropriate every one of the four million Palestinians, and other Arab or Third World soul who cares to in a struggle for dignity, to send a postcard to a nearest American embassy, to sign a neighborhood petition, to publish collective newspaper declarations to tell every American friend I-to-face, to say that the position of the American government on the issue of Palestine is deeply violent and deeply despised, and that the way to fight a despicable policy of an entire country is to refuse to deal with that country in to-day affairs, to refuse to buy American goods, to refuse to fly on American airlines, to refuse to deal with American banks, to refuse to associate with American institutions.

This will not in itself hurt the United States much, even if every one of the four million Palestinians invokes such a policy. But it will have positive effect, which is to dissociate oneself from the morally abject policies of nations whose leaders have the gall to suggest, as Mr. Carter suggested this week, that the natural rights of an entire Palestinian people can be subjugated by irrational American policies of fear, black cowardice, regression and moral scurrilousness.

Mr. Carter is pushing the Palestinian nation further corners of negativism, desperation and extremism. The backlash will fly straight to his face, and his nation's, and then it will be too far for him to tell us once again that, oh, sorry, he's wrong. Jerusalem is, after all, a part of Palestine.

If that time comes simultaneously with the lapse of America's slippery network of special interests in the Middle East, when nobody, American goods, or flies American airplanes deals with American banks, it shall not have without warning, patience and a final act of lessness. Mr. Carter will then perhaps have answer to his people. And what shall he tell them? That his actions were based on a misunderstanding?

In wake of snowstorm

Agriculture ministry launch farmer aid programme

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, March 5 -- Dr. Hassan Gharaybeh, under secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture told the Jordan Times today that the ministry's programme of assistance to farmers whose crops and trees were damaged by the recent snowstorm and are affected by the ensuing floods went into effect today.

This aid takes the form of advice given to the farmers by agents from the ministry's extension service. Dr. Gharaybeh made a broadcast on the radio Tuesday and another this morning aimed at reaching the great number of farmers that the ministry's agents can not reach personally. The ministry is also preparing a programme to go on the television.

The ministry's agents will set out tomorrow to advise farmers in the Jordan Valley and the uplands. Farmers in the uplands who suffered losses were advised how to prune the trees that lost branches under the weight of the snow. Particularly badly effected are olive trees, especially those over a hundred years old, whose branches are not so strong.

Since March is traditionally the month of snow, when from three to seven falls could be expected in a cold winter, people should be prepared by pruning not only olive

trees and others damaged already but also their store-fruit trees, Dr. Gharaybeh pointed out.

He referred to the damage he has seen to trees in the Amman area as a "massacre." The thousands of seedlings planted on various sites in the country in the last few weeks have not been damaged, however. They are strong enough to withstand such weather, and due to their slender branches, would not have accumulated snow like the older larger trees.

Dr. Gharaybeh said the agents who visited the Jordan Valley today found parts of some farms completely submerged in the Jordan River, which is swollen by

waters from melting snow agents advised the farmers to treat the land after the subsidence.

The sudden rise in temperature and humidity following temperatures earlier in it also bring with them the diseases, particularly fungal ones. The trees can be protected by spraying.

The ministry is not in a to compensate farmers for incurred by the snow, or natural causes, the secretary said. "Our budget cater for that. We have to God compensating us with a better season later this year."



Hundreds of trees were blown down in the recent snowstorm

هكذا على الحال

Gold money goes into stocks

NOTE: This is the first of a series of articles.

Norah Barger
Times Staff Reporter

March 5 -- While many have lost on gold in Jordan, others -- those who sold their gold coins at high prices -- have gained. It is a gauge of the gains during January, the set boomed, clearly but many were not, as the consumer goods gold gains -- which inflation -- but rather in the country.

Dr. Hashem Sabbagh, chairman of the Amman Stock Exchange, said that the Jordanian Tanning and secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, the selling gold to buy about twelve days ago really got going, he went to the financial market seeing large numbers going up and down they had been selling to buy stocks.

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Dr. Hashem Sabbagh (centre) on the floor of the Amman Stock Exchange.

'World's best investment'

Prices of many stocks have varied widely. The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co., at par value JD 5, zoomed in one day of trading up to JD 12.54, then dropped to JD 9.5. Now it has settled at around JD 10.7.

People are learning, Dr. Sabbagh said, that the fluctuations are to be expected in a market where demand far outstrips supply. Even so, he said, buying shares on the Jordanian stock market is "the best investment in the world -- our returns and yields are the same as on the New York Stock Exchange but our shares are still undervalued."

In face of greatly heightened activity, the stock market now must meet the challenge of increasing the supply of shares. Among other things the market's management is asking companies to expand or to increase the number of their shares if their authorised capital is higher than their subscriptions.

Dr. Sabbagh would like the government to tax privately and publicly held companies at different rates, to sell shares it owns in companies (sometimes as much as 85 per cent of one company) to the public and to introduce new financial instruments, such as corporate government bonds and certificates of deposit.

"The stock market is a vehicle of investment for the growth of the country," Dr. Sabbagh said. "The government created the market, and it has been a success. It is now up to the government to make further use of it for the benefit of the country."

Savings Fund swells

Along with the stock market, the Post Office Savings Fund also showed a marked increase in activity during January. In that month the number of new depositors at the fund was 3,000, as compared with 1,000 in December which brought the total number of depositors to 65,000. Total savings deposited in the fund also tripled between December and January, going from JD 100,000 to JD 300,000.

The savings fund director, Mr. Abdullah Al Hawamdeh, told the Jordan Times that he attributed the sharp rise in deposits partly to people's placing money from sales

gold boom in Jordan is also the quietest: the Central Bank. At any one time gold composes eight to ten per cent of the bank's foreign reserves, Dr. Maher Shukri, the bank's head of foreign operations, said.

The Central Bank's gold holdings are valued at a nominal \$100 an ounce. "We don't intend to revalue," Dr. Shukri said, adding that in 1976, following the demonetisation of gold by the International Monetary Fund, the Central Bank revalued its gold holdings from \$42.22 to \$100 an ounce. Proceeds accruing from the revaluation went to the Pension Fund.

If there is a revaluation, Dr. Shukri said, it should "not go towards consumption but towards priority projects." He hastened to add that chances of a revaluation were slim in Jordan because of the "unnecessary monetary pressures" it would unleash.

He noted that the Central Bank's conservatism stemmed from the nature of Jordan's balance of payments structure, which involves a balance of trade deficit along with a surplus of both official remittances and others.

The Central Bank will keep its undervalued gold as a hidden reserve. "We will hold it as a cushion in case of drastic changes in the capital flow into Jordan," Dr. Shukri said.

The Arab tradition of trust in the value of gold is largely responsible for the bank's holdings in the precious metal. With gold perhaps permanently priced at over \$500 an ounce, the bank's reserves have more than made up for the declining value of other currencies in its foreign reserves, particularly the dollar.

"We are better off than other Third World countries," Dr. Shukri concluded. "Most of them do not have enough foreign exchange to buy gold, let alone hold it."

Central Bank benefits

The greatest beneficiary of the



As the price of gold rose late last year, many Jordanians cashed in their jewelry and invested the profits in stocks and savings accounts. Above, gold ingots are weighed with precision in the basement of the Banque de France.

Jordan joins 30 countries in conservation strategy

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, March 5 -- On Thursday, Jordan will put itself in the forefront of countries concerned with conservation. It will be among the 30 or so nations which will officially adopt and launch the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) at concurrent press conferences around the world.

The strategy is the culmination of an intensive effort involving governments and more than 700 eminent experts from over 100 countries for a period of three years. It reflects an unprecedented agreement in the world's scientific community on what to do to ensure that the earth's natural resources are safeguarded -- not only for ourselves, but for future generations.

It also brings together countries of widely differing political and economic persuasions. Among the countries launching the WCS tomorrow are developed and developing nations, as well as both free enterprise and socialist societies. They have in common the realisation that the world's resources are limited, and that many are rapidly shrinking.

Countries launching the WCS Thursday include the U.S., the USSR, the U.K., Kenya, India, Spain, Indonesia and Australia. The only other Middle Eastern country besides Jordan to participate in the strategy is Tunisia.

The WCS is being enacted under the auspices of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), a United Nations agency, and in cooperation with three other U.N. agencies: the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and Unesco, as well as the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) -- is the world's leading private fundraiser for conservation.

In Jordan, a National Committee for WCS has already been formed, with Her Majesty Queen Noor as the honorary chairman. Mr. Anis Mousasher, chairman of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, is also chairman as well of this national committee. Mr. Haitham Qassous, press secretary at the Prime Ministry, is acting as national coordinator.

The committee also includes the

ministers of agriculture and of municipal, rural and environmental affairs, the mayor of Amman, the directors of tourism and industry, the president of Yarmouk University, the vice-chairman of the Natural Resources Authority and the dean of agriculture at the University of Jordan.

The national committee has already met several times, during which meetings members submitted plans and proposals on ways the institutions for which they work can contribute to conservation in Jordan. "New trends of thought toward conservation have begun happening as a result of these meetings," Mr. Qassous told the Jordan Times. He gives credit for the governmental impetus towards an awareness of conservation to the Prime Minister, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, who expanded the responsibilities of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs to include the environment.

Dr. Jamal Sha'er, the minister of municipal, rural and environmental affairs, told the Jordan Times today that he firmly feels that conservation goes hand-in-hand with development, as it has wider ramifications than its traditional role of limiting pollution and protecting wildlife.

He pointed out that since the ministry also has charge of municipal and rural affairs, under which regional planning falls, development in Jordan is assured of being integrated with environmental concerns.

The main role he envisions for the Department of Environment, recently set up in his ministry, he said, is one of "guidance." It will recommend legislation on conservation and coordinate the activities of other departments, including the National Planning Council and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature. "It will be a small department with a limited bureaucracy," he said.

The department, however, will not neglect the issues of pollution and wildlife. On the question of pollution, Dr. Sha'er said, he has already commissioned papers, "many of which were very good," from departments concerned with water pollution and industrial wastes. The environment department will coordinate their activities.

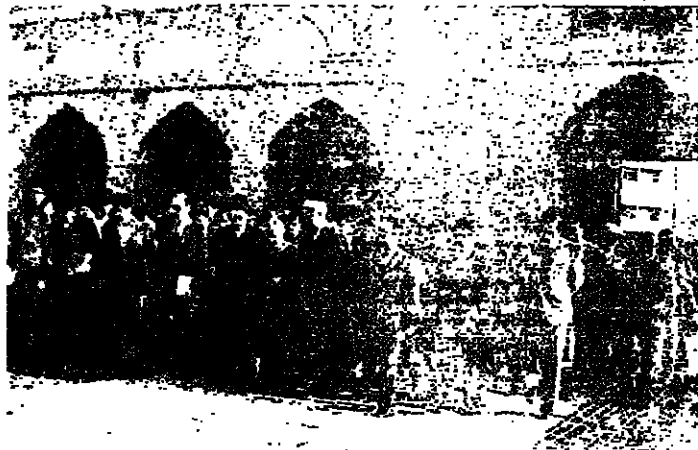
As far as the conservation of nature is concerned, he said, the



Her Majesty Queen Noor

department will help design policy in coordination with the Royal Society for the conservation of Nature and use its executive powers to get legislation passed.

Mr. Mousasher will hold a press conference tomorrow morning to describe what steps Jordan will take for environmental protection within the framework of the WCS.



His Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited yesterday the tomb of Imam Ali Ibn Abi Talib in Najaf, Iraq.

Arab-American team goes back to U.S. with strong impressions from ME tour

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN, March 5 -- Americans in the Middle East -- both businessmen and those in the diplomatic corps -- are convinced the Camp David approach to peace is "bullshit" that it won't work and that it is only creating tension in Arab-American relations.

That is one of the impressions Mr. Jean Abinader will take back to the United States and share with Americans there after wrapping up a two-week tour in the region as the executive director of the National Association of Arab Americans.

The NAAA is an independent body that promotes Arab-American relations while "always keeping American interests as our base," Mr. Abinader told the Jordan Times. And it is emerging as the most influential and respected block in presenting the Arab view to the United States. The NAAA is now called to express the Arab viewpoint before congressional hearings on Middle East matters, where previously only the Zionist lobby was heard.

In visiting Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, Mr. Abinader was impressed by American businessmen to get the message to Americans in the U.S. that their government's foreign policy in the Middle East is not in the nation's best interest. "None of the United States' goals will be met by the kind of American policy being implemented in the Middle East," Mr. Abinader said he was told.



Mr. Jean Abinader

To businessmen, politics translates into economics and they believe it is in the best economic interests of the United States to change its policy in the Middle East to a more even-handed approach. What needs immediate attention, Mr. Abinader was told, is a reform of stringent U.S. tax laws on overseas Americans which hamper U.S. business and investment in the Middle East.

Because of the current American foreign policy in the Middle East, Arabs have developed a "schizophrenic" attitude about the United States -- they dislike the government but have a warm feeling for the people, Mr. Abinader said. The Arabs realise and value the catalytic role the NAAA plays between the American people and government, and that realisation was evident during his trip.

In Saudi Arabia, Mr. Abinader and his travelling partner Mr. Michael Saba -- who will announce his candidacy next week

for election as a U.S. senator from North Dakota -- pre-empted time originally allotted for U.S. Energy Secretary Charles Duncan in a meeting with Saudi Minister of Industry and Electricity Ghazi Abdul Rahman Qusaibi. "The minister said we'd be of more value to him than the energy secretary," Mr. Abinader said.

While in Lebanon, the two met with PLO leader Yasser Arafat for an hour and a half. Mr. Arafat talked about the long-term fruits of the PLO diplomatic initiative. "He said the Palestinian movement is committed to the diplomatic approach to peace, as long as it continues to work. But this does not mean they are abandoning their armed struggle," Mr. Abinader said.

One of Mr. Abinader's strongest impressions from his tour is the Arab states' determination to keep the superpowers out of the politics of the region. "The reality is not that the Middle East is an arena for the superpowers. It is not a military problem. It is a political problem that requires a political answer from the United States," he said.

Tomorrow, Mr. Abinader returns to the United States and will walk directly into a meeting with Mr. William Webster, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The NAAA wishes to extract an explanation from Mr. Webster on why FBI agents posed as wealthy Arabs to bribe congressmen in the FBI "Abscam" operation. The NAAA will express its condemnation of the inappropriate and unfortunate use of Arabs in Abscam," Mr. Abinader said. "How can the FBI conduct such negative stereotyping while the government has worked so hard against such practices? Does the FBI realise the impact and the damage it has caused to Arab-American relations? We want to create in them a consciousness and sensibility," Mr. Abinader said, adding that it is the purpose of NAAA to turn its impressions into action in the United States.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA)

announces to all companies and contractors who have bought the tender documents for drilling wells in the Azraq region that there will be an inspection trip to the site. Assembly place: at the AWSA offices in Jabal Hussein at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, March 8, 1980.

Transportation from Amman to Azraq and back will be in the contractor's own vehicle. The AWSA will provide transportation on the site.

Director General

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Name of Company	Par Value	Number Traded	High	Low	Closing Price
Arab Union Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	1415	1.750	1.750	1.750
Jordan Dairy Co.	JD 1,000	1750	1.410	1.410	1.410
Arabian Development and Investment	JD 2,000	1000	1.550	1.550	1.550
Arabian Seas Insurance Co. Ltd.	JD 5,000	200	13.000	13.000	13.000
Islamic Bank	JD 1,000	100	2.860	2.860	2.860
Bank of Jordan	JD 5,000	40	14.280	14.280	14.280
Jordan Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	1368	1.670	1.670	1.670
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	3410	2.070	2.070	2.070
Jordan Kuwait Bank	JD 1,000	2245	2.380	2.370	2.380
Arab Investment Bank	JD 1,000	890	1.550	1.550	1.550
Arab Bank Co.	JD 10,000	40	127.000	127.000	127.000
Cairo Amman Bank	JD 5,000	152	14.570	14.570	14.570
Jordan Tanning Co.	JD 5,000	20	12.000	12.000	12.000
Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	2050	1.040	1.040	1.040
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	7816	3.450	3.400	3.450
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Co.	JD 1,000	178	29.100	29.000	29.000
Arab Company for Aluminium Industries	JD 1,000	550	1.760	1.730	1.760
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	4928	2.280	2.260	2.280
Irish District Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	50	1.100	1.100	1.100
International Construction and Investment	JD 1,000	4390	1.100	1.090	1.100
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	JD 10,000	230	12.250	12.250	12.250
Jordan Cement Factories Co.	JD 10,000	34	21.050	21.050	21.050
Jordan Ceramic Industries Co.	JD 1,000	500	1.350	1.350	1.350
Jordan Glass Factories Co.	JD 1,000	500	0.980	0.980	0.980
Jordan Paper and Cardboard Factories Co.	JD 1,000	500	1.350	1.350	1.350
Jordan Phosphate Mines Co.	JD 1,000	1593	3.600	3.520	3.600
Arab Chemical Detergents Industries Co.	JD 1,000	4950	2.630	2.550	2.620
Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co.	JD 5,000	1871	10.600	10.550	10.550

Total Volume Traded on Wednesday, March 5, 1980: JD 127,538

Total number of shares traded: 42,770

Government Development Bonds

Year of Maturity	Par Value	Number Traded	Volume Traded	High	Low
1989	JD 10,000	277	2796	10.100	10.080

LOST DOG

Small "King Charles" spaniel (colour: black and white) belonging to Firas Ibn Ra'd
Lost Tuesday afternoon March 4, near Green Valley Supermarket

If found, please telephone 44667
A reward will be paid

TODAY'S WEATHER

There will be mild to moderate rain. In Aqaba, winds will be moderate and seas

Overnight	Daytime
low	high
13	13
7	22
0	17
11	19

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

298.50/300.50
668.20/672.50
151.60/152.50
102.80/103.40
71.20/71.60
36.00/36.20
121.30/122.00
151.60/152.50
102.80/103.40
71.20/71.60

Basketball roundup

NEW YORK, March 5 (AP) — Elvin Hayes led the surging Washington Bullets to a 135-107 rout of the Detroit Pistons. For good measure, Hayes grabbed 10 rebounds and handed out three assists. The Bullets have won six of their last seven games to move into the Eastern Conference playoff picture. The triumph moved them ahead of Indiana for the final playoff spot. With Hayes tossing in 13 points, the Bullets bolted to a 33-25 lead at the end of the first quarter and then outscored the Pistons 12-4 in the opening minutes of the second period. The Bullets set a team record with 44 assists, 17 by Kevin Porter, who played only 24 minutes. The Pistons, meanwhile, have lost 15 of their last 16 games and have a road record of 3-31.

Celtics 137, Spurs 108: Larry Bird scored 29 points and Cedric Maxwell added 23 as the Celtics routed the slumping Spurs for their seventh consecutive victory. It was the sixth consecutive loss for the Spurs — worst losing streak since they joined the NBA in 1976 — who fired coach Doug Moe two games ago.

Rockets 93, Hawks 83: Moses Malone scored 28 points, including a 10-foot jumper that gave Houston the lead, as Atlanta's magic number to clinch the Central Division crown remained at eight. The Rockets built a 66-53 lead before the Hawks scored 13 straight points, eight by John Drew, for a tie. Malone's jump shot then put the Rockets ahead to stay.

In Portland, Oregon, Seattle starting guards Dennis Johnson and Gus Williams outscored Portland guards Dave Twardzik and Ron Brewer 46-111 as the Seattle SuperSonics defeated the Trail Blazers 98-97 in a National Basketball Association victory.

Lloyd Free had 10 points in the third quarter and Brian Taylor added nine in the period as the San Diego Clippers rallied to snap a two-game losing streak and defeat the Cleveland Cavaliers 116-105 in San Diego, California.

In Salt Lake City, Utah, just as things were looking bad for Golden State, John Lucas scored five points in 15 seconds and the Warriors went on to defeat the Utah Jazz 111-105 in a battle of the NBA's Western Conference cellar-dwellers.

Meanwhile, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, getting two crucial free throws in the final seconds, combined with Jamaal Wilkes for 52 points as Los Angeles scored a 127-124 in National Basketball Association victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Brazil to attend Moscow Olympics

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 5 (AP) — Brazil's National Olympic Committee confirmed yesterday that the country will participate in the summer Olympic games in Moscow. The committee voted unanimously against the boycott proposed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

Last World Cup tennis series begins

HARTFORD, Connecticut, March 5 (AP) — Australia's Ken Rosewall and the United States' Tom Gorman were chosen yesterday to open singles play Thursday as the final World Cup tennis series begins. In doubles Thursday Fred Stolle and Roy Emerson of Australia will take on Dennis Ralston and Marty Riessen of the United States. Ralston and Stolle are team captains. Other singles matches drawn Tuesday are John Newcombe of Australia against Riessen on Friday, Rosewall against Riessen on Saturday and Newcombe against Gorman on Sunday. Pairings for the doubles matches Saturday and Sunday will be announced an hour before the start of the matches those days.

The sponsor of the Australia versus the United States competition Aetna Life and Casualty, announced last year that this year's competition would be the last World Cup.

Meanwhile, in Dallas, Texas, South African Greer Stevens stunned veteran Billie Jean King 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 last night for the first major upset in a \$150,000 women's professional tennis tournament at Dallas. The blonde victor, slowed by a left knee that visibly pained her said the "played by instinct" in beating the third-seeded King. Top-seeded Martina Navratilova also won her first match of the tournament, disposing of 23-year-old Beth Norton 6-1, 6-4 in another first-round match last night.

In earlier singles matches, Kim Sands defeated Glynnis Coles 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; Yvonne Vermaak ousted Virginia Ruzici 6-7, 7-6, 7-6; Wendy Turnbull turned back Peanuts Louie 6-1, 6-1; Sylvia Hanika beat Sherry Acker 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 and Pam Shriver beat Andrea Jaeger 6-1, 6-0.

New Zealand beats W. Indies in cricket

AUCKLAND, March 5 (AP) — New Zealand drew the third and final cricket test against the West Indies at Eden Park today, thereby unexpectedly winning the series. New Zealand won the first test at Napier and drew the second at Lancaster Park. When bad light stopped play and the match was declared over

today, New Zealand were 73 for four in their second innings having scored 305 in their first. West Indies scored 220 in their first innings and were 264 for nine declared in their second.

The surprise victory for New Zealand in the series came because the West Indians, the acknowledged world champions, never came to terms with New Zealand conditions after their triumphs on the faster Australian pitches. The New Zealand wickets were much slower and had an uneven bounce. The much vaunted pace attack bowled too short for the conditions and the batsmen too often were expecting the ball to bounce off the pitch as it had in Australia.

1982 Asian Games to be held in India

NEW DELHI, India March 5 (AP) — The Indian government confirmed today that it will hold the 1982 Asian games in New Delhi, a government official said. The decision was taken at a meeting of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's cabinet, said the official, who asked not to be named.

Officials estimate that the 1982 Asian will cost more than \$40 million. The central government will give the equivalent of \$32.5 million while Delhi's civic bodies have agreed to meet the remaining costs. Work on the construction of new stadiums and an athletes village has not yet started, says V.K. Malhotra, president of the Asian Games organising committee.

'Quintuple Champion' starts training

NEW YORK, March 5 (AP) — Muhammad Ali showed up at his camp in Deer Lake Pennsylvania, early yesterday to begin serious training for a boxing comeback. "Quintuple champion," Ali screamed over the telephone from the camp. "You know what that means don't you?" He proceeded to tell the caller that he would consider himself a five-time champion after he beats John Tate, the World Boxing Association champion, and Larry Holmes, the World Boxing Council champ.

Turkey's economy still stalled

ANKARA, March 5 (Agencies) — "I am not a magician. But Turkey will certainly be a better country to live in 100 days from now." It was with those characteristically bold words that the new Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel last November announced his own deadline for the nation to judge his performance. The deadline expired on March 4, and not even his own supporters dare claim that Turkey is any better off than it was 100 days ago.

Shortages are still rife, inflation and unemployment have risen even more steeply and the daily average of political killings has climbed from five to seven. Such facts, however, do not disturb the new conservative prime minister. His has used his first 100 days not to bring immediate, magic results but to sow the seeds of a new economic order which is likely to make or break not only his government but the whole Turkish economy.

A Turkish weekly magazine recently attacked the premier for promising too much and said Turkey needed "a leader with the moral courage of a Winston Churchill who would promise only blood, sweat and tears." But many Turks say Mr. Demirel has shown more moral courage during his first 100 days than at any time of his long political career.

Instead of seeking short-term answers to Turkey's grave economic crisis, as he did during his last term in office by encouraging high-interest short-term loans, the prime minister has opted to turn the country's economic system upside-down. Private enterprise, both Turkish and foreign, has been encouraged, trade restrictions eased, red tape cut and the nationalised firms and industries told to produce or bust.

Mr. Demirel, his government, Turkish businessmen and western experts are agreed that the new economic package can only work if it is backed by sufficient foreign credits over the next few years. The signs are good that such credits will be forthcoming. The only question, however, is whether Mr. Demirel's government can survive to use the money.

In a new development today, the Turkish Central Bank revealed the Turkish lira against European currencies by one and two percent. The lira was following the dollar's recent gains against three currencies, officials explained. According to the new parties announced in the official gazette today one West German mark went down to 39.64 Turkish liras from previous 40.49, the pound sterling to 158.40 liras from 160 and the French Franc to 16.91 from 17.28.

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Anderson jolts Reagan, Bush Kennedy jubilant over Massachusetts victory

BOSTON, March 5 (R) — On his home ground, Democrat Edward Kennedy finally won a presidential primary vic-

tory last night and the battle for the Republican nomination turned into a three-man race.

In Massachusetts, which has been electing Kennedys to high office since the end of World War Two, the senator was jubilant about his 66 to 29 per cent victory over President Carter.

Meanwhile, Illinois Republican Congressman John Anderson gave his party's front-runners, conservatives Ronald Reagan and George Bush, their biggest jolt in the 1980 presidential campaign.

The liberal Mr. Anderson popped out of the pack of Republican also-rans and in the process probably hastened the day when former president Gerald Ford might announce his candidature for the country's top office.

Mr. Ford has been dropping hints that if his party wants him, he would be willing to run again for the presidency.

Mr. Ford is now expected to announce his decision when the results of the March 18 Illinois primary are known.

Mr. Anderson ran an extremely close second to Mr. Reagan in tiny Vermont's non-binding primary and appeared to run a close second to Mr. Bush in vote-rich Massachusetts as thousands of independent voters turned Republican for a day.

Mr. Anderson, whose campaign has attracted hundreds of young people willing to work tirelessly for him, is the only Republican in the race supporting liberal causes like women's rights, freedom of choice on abortion and energy



Senator Edward Kennedy

conservation.

His challenge to the front-runners clearly worried both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush, but they and their aides went to great pains last night to claim his showing was a one-day wonder. Mr. Anderson insisted he is now a national candidate preparing a strategy for victory.

President Carter beat Mr. Kennedy by 74 to 26 per cent in Vermont's primary.

The president said he was pleased with his Vermont results and pointedly congratulated not only Mr. Kennedy but also the senator's strong organisation for his Massachusetts victory.

The president's press secretary Jody Powell said Massachusetts

was not exactly Carter country.

He noted that in the next week, Mr. Kennedy, whose White House quest had faltered up to the Massachusetts contest, will be facing primaries in ten states, all of which Mr. Carter is expected to win.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Reagan were as publicly unimpressed with Mr. Anderson's showing as the president was with Mr. Kennedy's.

Mr. Reagan, who was expected to win in Massachusetts by riding the momentum of his New Hampshire primary triumph last week, echoed Mr. Powell by saying that Massachusetts was not exactly his territory either.

Mr. Bush noted that the ground rules of the Massachusetts primary, allowing independents to vote, did not apply in most of the other primary states.

He said the battle was still a race between himself and Mr. Reagan.

In a victory statement at a Boston hotel, Mr. Kennedy renewed his call for a freeze on prices, profits and interest rates and also attacked Mr. Carter on his flip-flop on the question of the United States voting to condemn Israel in the Security Council over the weekend.

Referring to Mr. Carter's disowning of the vote against Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territory, Mr. Kennedy said: "We do not want a foreign policy that lurches from crisis to crisis as we have seen in the last 48 hours."

Colombian representatives begin 2nd round of talks with guerrillas

BOGOTA, Colombia, March 5 (AP) — The second round of face-to-face talks between Colombian government representatives and guerrillas began this morning in a panel truck outside the Dominican Republic embassy, where the guerrillas have held 20 foreign diplomats and other hostages for a week.

Negotiations for release of the hostages, beginning their second week in captivity, were held in the same windowless cream-coloured van and with the same representatives as the first direct talks on Sunday.

The government sent Deputy Foreign Ministers Ramiro Zambrano and Camilo Jaramenez to the van, parked within range of both guerrilla and government sharpshooters. The van arrived with its rear doors removed to allow the guerrillas inside the embassy to observe the talks.

The guerrillas were represented by Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan, one of the hostages, and a female guerrilla with her head covered by a white hood.

Although there had been no direct contact between the guerrillas and government since Sunday, a high-level government source said yesterday negotiations continued by telephone.

"The conversations have never been interrupted for a single moment," said an official source who asked not to be identified.

The source said Mr. Galan is serving as intermediary between Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas and the guerrillas.

The guerrillas have demanded \$50 million in

cash, the release of 311 alleged political prisoners, worldwide publication of a guerrilla manifesto and safe-conduct out of the country.

They say they are prepared to wait up to two months for a settlement and have threatened to kill the hostages and blow up the embassy if their demands are not met.

When the guerrillas and government representatives met Sunday, the talks resulted in the release of five hostages a few hours later.

The guerrillas have freed 23 hostages, including 15 women, since they seized the embassy Feb. 27 during a diplomatic reception.

On Sunday, a Foreign Ministry source said face-to-face talks would resume in the panel truck yesterday, but the meeting never materialised. Neither the guerrillas, who confirmed the meeting, nor the government offered an explanation.

The government has indicated that the talks could drag on for some time. Also, for the first time, the government began issuing safe-conduct cards yesterday to local and foreign reporters and photographers. They expire on March 15, three days after countrywide municipal and provincial council elections.

There is speculation that the government wants to wait until after the elections before settling with the guerrillas, either by force or by mutual agreement.

Reporters for the first time were unable to call the embassy yesterday as the government apparently installed new, unlisted telephone lines to the embassy in order to restrict access.

El Salvador's ruling junta reportedly loses member as violence continues

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, March 5 (AP) — Local radio stations reported the resignation of one of the three civilian members of El Salvador's ruling military-civilian junta last night as political violence continued.

The report said Mr. Hector Dada Hirez, a leader of the Christian Democratic Party, resigned, saying only that he was "tired."

Mr. Dada Hirez could not be reached for comment, and there was no confirmation of the report.

Mr. Dada Hirez became foreign minister after Colonel Adolfo Arnoldo Majano and Jaime Abdul Gutierrez overthrew General Carlos Humberto Romero on Oct. 15. They won Christian Democratic support with promises of reforms to ease the military grip on the small Central American nation and improve the lot of the poverty-stricken peasants.

The junta's first three civilian members resigned Jan. 2, charging the colonels with delaying the

promised reforms. Mr. Dada Hirez and another Christian Democrat, Mr. Jose Antonio Morales Erlich, then joined the junta at the request of their party along with independent, Mr. Ramon Avalos Navarrete.

Meanwhile, 20 persons were killed in a guerrilla attack on the national guard headquarters and elsewhere in San Salvador Monday night, authorities said.

Police reported five bodies presumed to be those of leftist guerrillas were found in the vicinity of the guard headquarters after the attack. Two other dead were found in their cars and may have been bystanders caught in the crossfire, according to the police.

A spokesman for the national guard, El Salvador's army, said there were no casualties among the troops in the guard compound in the northern part of the city.

The guard reported 13 other bodies were found beside streets and in parks in San Salvador and it did not appear the victims were involved in the headquarters fight. The bodies were not immediately identified and no group asserted responsibility for the killings.

There was speculation they were victims of right-wing death squads. Fourteen bodies were found in various areas of the capital Sunday, and medical sources said most of the victims appeared to have been workers.

The deaths brought to 34 the number of persons known killed in political violence since Sunday.

The attack on the guard headquarters erupted late Monday and sporadic shooting continued until dawn, forcing hundreds of area residents to duck for cover.

A half dozen left-wing organisations and guerrilla groups have been seizing hostages and attacking security forces, with right-wing extremists retaliating by killing suspected leftists.

Caught in the middle is the junta of three civilians and two army officers.

The junta has promised to issue a land-reform programme this week involving a greater distribution of property to landless peasants. Left-wing militants seeking to establish a socialist government say the junta's reform promises do not go far enough.

Mugabe will seek to reconcile people of Zimbabwe

SALISBURY, March 5 (R) — Prime Minister-designate Robert Mugabe, overwhelming victor in Rhodesia's independence election, has firmly committed himself to reconciling jubilant blacks and jittery whites in the new black-ruled state of Zimbabwe.

Mr. Mugabe, who swept into power by winning 57 of the 80 black seats at stake in last week's general election, preached harmony to the apprehensive white minority and defeated black rivals alike all day yesterday.

Only an hour after his crushing election victory was confirmed, Mr. Mugabe was asked by British Governor Lord Soames to form a government which will lead Africa's newest nation after independence this month.

Then, in a radio and television address last night to the nation he

will lead, Mr. Mugabe declared: "I wish to assure you that there can never be any return to the state of armed conflict. Now is the time to beat our swords into ploughshares."

It was Mr. Mugabe's Mozambique-based guerrillas who bore the brunt of the fighting during the seven-year bush war that finally brought about last week's poll.

Mr. Mugabe repeated in his national broadcast that he would form a national front with his former guerrilla alliance partner, Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the burly, greying father-figure of black Rhodesian nationalism who was runner-up in the election with 20 seats. Former prime minister Bishop Abel Muzorewa won only three.

In words clearly designed to

reassure the 200,000 members of the privileged white society that there was also room for them in an independent Zimbabwe, he added: "We do not want to drive anybody out of this country."

He added that he would seek to bring into his coalition, "in the interests of reconciliation," those members of the community who could not take part in last week's poll. This was a reference to the white minority who voted in a separate election in mid-February for 20 seats reserved for whites—won by the Rhodesian Front party of former premier Ian Smith—in the 100-member parliament.

Mr. Mugabe began his negotiations with Mr. Nkomo on the future shape of the government within hours of seeing Lord Soames. The process of con-

stituting a government and naming a president to whom the interim British administration can hand over power is expected to take at least two weeks.

The United States yesterday congratulated Mr. Mugabe on his victory as the Soviet Union, apparently surprised by the size of his win, urged him to join forces with Mr. Nkomo.

Black African countries meanwhile expressed delight at Mr. Mugabe's win. But South Africa issued a clear warning to the prime minister-elect not to allow his country to be used for attacks on its southern neighbour.

In a formal statement, U.S. State Department spokesman Hudding Carter congratulated Mr. Mugabe on his "resounding victory in this first truly democratic election in Rhodesia," and added: "We look forward to working with the new government."

In Moscow, the news of Mr. Mugabe's win followed repeated accusations in the Soviet press that Britain had rigged the poll to make Bishop Muzorewa the winner.

But yesterday, the government newspaper Izvestia reported the Marxist-leaning guerrilla's leader's victory under the headline "The people's choice" and said the bishop's party had suffered a crushing defeat.

The official news agency TASS urged the two wings of the Patriotic Front led by Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Nkomo to link in a government of national unity and "finally frustrate the conspiracy of the neo-colonialists against Zimbabwe."



Robert Mugabe

babwe...

President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, the chairman of black Africa's "Frontline" states involved in the Rhodesia issue, predicted a bright future for the new Zimbabwe and admitted he was wrong in telling reporters last week that Britain would rig the poll.

"I think I was wrong. This is not the first time I have been proved wrong and this is not the first time that I am very pleased I am wrong," he told a news conference.

Of relations between South Africa and the new Rhodesian administration he said: "Both sides can live and let live."

But South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha said in a statement that any neighbour which allowed its territory to be used for attacks on South Africa would "have to face all the force of the republic's strength."

Rash of ship sinkings in Asia involved fraud schemes, investigators conclude

TOKYO, March 5 (AP) — A rash of ship sinkings in Asia in recent years involved fraud "on a vast scale," a team of international insurance investigators has found.

In a confidential report, the four-man team alleged that five or more groups of Asian ship brokers or owners have deliberately sunk at least 16 ships in the past two years to collect tens of millions of dollars in insurance, and that the fraud schemes have apparently been going on much longer.

Investigators are now under way in Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong and Japan, but so far no one has been charged.

In the last two years, at least 28 vessels have been lost in suspicious circumstances, said the report by the Far East Regional Investigation Team (FERIT). A copy of the report was obtained by the Associated Press.

"FERIT considers that there is a strong probability that as many as 16 of those vessels were scuttled, or otherwise involved in attempted fraud, and that the same may be said of at least 11 of the 21 losses over two years old (that were investigated)."

"The inquiry reveals that fraud on a vast scale has taken place," the report said.

The four-man team was formed by regional insurance companies after more than 40 unexplained sinkings of aging freighters in two years. Most were in good weather and without loss of life. The team's four-month investigation began last July.

The FERIT team was at first sceptical that there had been a large number of fraudulent losses because of the inherent risk to life and limb. "However, this scepticism has steadily evaporated," it said.

After checking more than 60 sinkings, the team discovered that the same shipowners, sometimes the same crews, and often the same shippers, had been involved in half a dozen or more sinkings.

A typical scheme, FERIT said, is to buy older freighters, load them with high-value cargo such as Japanese electronics or

cameras, then either quietly sell the cargo or simply never load it and fake the papers. Later, the ship is scuttled to claim the insurance. FERIT named five companies and several agents as major alleged participants in schemes like this.

FERIT alleged that in some cases, the ships which were reported sunk were still afloat somewhere in Asia.

A number of small syndicates were involved in the fraud, FERIT concluded, and although they did not work directly with each other,

there were indications that they traded information.

Last year, it said, several insurance companies became suspicious and halted payment on some claims, although many other claims were paid without investigation. Some \$45 million in claims is outstanding on sinkings the team considers suspicious.

Despite the suspicion, and a series of stories in the English-language weekly Far Eastern Economic Review, which conducted its own probe, the FERIT report said the fraud continued.

Cuba's economic bind

By Albert Clack

HAVANA — Cuba is facing serious economic difficulties, and only the highly favourable terms of its trade with the Soviet bloc are saving it from disaster, according to its communist leaders.

Low prices paid by non-communist countries on the world market for sugar, which accounts for more than 80 per cent of Cuba's exports, have slashed the country's hard currency income.

Inflation in the non-communist world has further reduced the Caribbean island's purchasing power outside the Soviet-led trade group Comecon (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance).

Also, diseases have struck a triple hammer blow at the vital agricultural sector of the Cuban economy, severely cutting the output of sugar, tobacco and pork.

Inefficiency, absenteeism, bureaucracy and corruption have made matters worse.

However, planning figures published at the end of last year

showed that although growth is slowing down, the economy has not stagnated, and there was even substantial progress in certain industrial sectors during 1979.

This year, despite cuts in some sectors, spending is to increase on education and health by seven per cent and on culture and science by six per cent.

President Fidel Castro said recently that the support of the Soviet bloc had placed Cuba in an incomparably better situation than other non-oil-exporting Third World countries.

The backing Cuba received from Moscow "is what allows our country to survive at a time when the economies of other countries are collapsing or in very difficult situations," he told the National Assembly.

His brother, Vice-President Raul Castro, said in a speech that only Cuba's close ties with the Kremlin and the fact that the island has a communist government had prevented "economic disaster and bankruptcy with their sequel of hunger and hundreds of thousands of unemployed."

Even so there will be tens of thousands of Cubans out of work this year, especially building workers and young people, in a country with a population of fewer

than ten million. President Castro said in an unusual disclosure.

Dr. Castro's address to a closed session of the National Assembly last Dec. 27 has not been published in the Cuban press, and details of it only became available to Western correspondents in Havana several weeks later.

The speech explained how the Soviet Union, by linking the price it pays Cuba for its sugar to what it charges the island for oil and other supplies, has protected the Castro government from spiralling world prices, especially for oil.

Last December, while the world sugar price had been stagnant for several years at less than eight cents per pound, Moscow was paying Cuba 44 cents per pound for it and other East European communist countries about 19 cents per pound, Dr. Castro said.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union was charging Cuba \$98 per tonne for oil when the world price was over \$280 per tonne, he added.

"If we had to buy the approximately 11 million tonnes of oil we need now on the world market... we should need from \$2,500 million to \$3,000 million," Dr. Castro continued.

Mentioning the approximately seven million tonnes of sugar which Cuba has been producing annually in recent years, he said,



President Fidel Castro (right) confers with his brother Raul, Cuba's vice-president. (Gamma-Liaison photo)

"If there were a market for them in the Western world, at today's prices, which have risen a bit, they would fetch about \$2,000 million."

Dr. Castro described linking Cuban sugar and Soviet oil prices as "the best agreement we have ever signed and I think that any country has ever signed."

In addition, the Soviet Union has guaranteed to supply 61 million of the 63 million tonnes of oil Cuba needs for its second five-year economic plan from 1981 to 1985, he announced.

But because of poor harvest prospects, Cuba has had to tell Moscow it will only be able to send it 17.5 million tonnes of sugar during the same period instead of a

planned 20 million tonnes, he added.

Last year the island produced its second biggest sugar crop to date, 7,992,000 tonnes. But because of an outbreak of a fungus disease called sugar rust and other problems, Dr. Castro forecast that one million tonnes would be lost this year.

The fact that it may not be possible to replace all the cane affected by the disease this year, plus a shortfall in this winter's routine sowings of new cane, could point to a low harvest next year as well, experts said.

Dr. Castro said that another plant disease, blue mould, which damaged the Cuban tobacco crop last season and had decimated this

World News Briefs

NEW DELHI, March 5 (AP) — Protestors demanding the expulsion of alleged aliens prevented government offices from opening today the third straight day of mass picketing in the northeastern state of Assam. The United News of India reported. However, it quoted student leaders of the agitation as saying late yesterday that they would suspend their movement until March 15 since talks with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the issue are scheduled on Friday. Earlier, it said the mass picketing would continue until March 15. The youth leaders launched the agitation last year to force the repatriation of suspected foreigners, largely illegal Muslim immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh. Officials have confirmed the deaths of more than 50 persons in clashes between agitators and the alien since the movement began five months ago. The youths are demanding the deletion of the aliens' names from electoral lists. They have blamed local politicians for the crisis, saying that the immigrants were illegally listed on the rolls in return for votes at election time. The agitators forced the postponement of balloting in 12 parliamentary constituencies during the January nationwide election that returned Mrs. Gandhi to power.

MOSCOW, March 5 (AP) — The Soviet Academy of Sciences, which has barred dissident leader Andrei Sakharov from attending a year's meeting, re-elected Mr. Anatoly Alexandrov as president of the prestigious academy for five years. In a speech opening a session of the organisation yesterday, he said President Carter's embargo on technical and scientific exchanges would damage Soviet scientific progress. "We do not think that the rupture of our contacts with American scientists will affect development of Soviet science. The whole world knows about achievements of Soviet specialists in the field of space research, atomic power engineering and other fields of knowledge," Mr. Alexandrov said. Mr. Sakharov, who was stripped of his state awards sent to internal exile in Gorky in January, asked on Feb. 12 to be allowed to return to Moscow to attend the academy meeting, remains a member of the group.

ROME, March 5 (AP) — World reserves of basic grains are expected to fall this year, particularly in poor developing countries, a UN Nations food committee said today. The intergovernmental group of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said it was worried about the concentration of food supplies in United States and Canada, which hold 40 per cent of the globe's reserves. "The uneven geographical distribution of stocks could create logistical problems in the event of major crop failures in major grain producing countries," an FAO statement said. Reserves of wheat, rice and coarse grains were forecast to drop by 11 million tons to 254 million at the end of the 1979-1980 crop season, the FAO committee said. At that level, world food reserves would be 17.5 per cent of consumption, which FAO says is the minimum level required for food security. Developing countries other than China were expected to suffer a decline in grain reserves for the third year in a row, decline in the 1979 cereal harvest is the cause of the expected fall in food reserves, FAO said on Monday that the global harvest from the record of 1,209 billion tons in 1978 to 1,156 billion tons in 1979.

VENICE, Italy, March 5 (AP) — Police raided an apartment last night and set free a 19-year-old girl whose kidnappers had asked ransom in solid gold. Acting on information from six suspects, a found Giancarla Balestra, daughter of a wealthy goldsmith and 20 days ago, chained, gagged and under heavy sedation in a co-habitation. No kidnappers were present. Both authorities and Balestra's family said the kidnappers had asked for a ransom of kilograms in solid gold with a market value in Italy of about million. Authorities said, however, the ransom was never paid and had reported earlier. Police said it was the first time in the history that Italian kidnapping gangs had asked for a ransom in gold.

Nobel prizes' cash value to be increased by 10% this year

STOCKHOLM, March 5 (AP) — The 1980 Nobel prizes' cash value will be increased by ten per cent to 880,000 kronor (\$208,000) from last year's award, beating inflation which amounted to 9.6 per cent locally, the Swedish Nobel Foundation said today.

A total of 4.4 million kronor (\$1,04 million) will be presented to the winners of the five Nobel awards administered by the foundation in the Stockholm concert hall on Dec. 10.

The peace prize, carrying an equal sum of money, is awarded separately in Oslo by a Norwegian parliamentary committee.

The 32 million kronor bequeathed by Swedish dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel in 1896 have swelled to 212 million kronor (\$50 million), a financial report said.

The foundation, inaugurated in 1900 enabling the first Nobel prize to be awarded the next year, said it reaped high yields by buying shares in a prospering Swedish business in the 1950s and 60s.

But inflation and a weak Swedish economy in the decade became a problem body which provides the money for the coveted award in medicine, physics, chemistry and economics.

Reasoning that shares no longer safe enough even the foundation gradually drew from the stock market more funds in real and similar investments.

Ten years ago, 43 per cent money was placed in short 26 per cent was tied up in estate, but today the proportions are reversed, 43 per cent estate and 30 per cent in the foundation said in a report.

The foundation concluded it did fairly well in keeping off inflation and staying in from being reduced in value. The real value of the prize has gone up about cent through the decades the nominal value has risen per cent, according to estimates the foundation.

of awarding himself benefits. Recent speeches leadership have shown of this feeling.

For instance, Raul, warned senior employees cars by the state to help their jobs not to abuse their jobs with their family joyriding with their family.

"Wherever we detect a official, he will have to be missed," Fidel Castro added.

The Cuban leaders have made clear that, whatever have to be made this year of economic problems, training and even improvising supplies is the top priority.

Although there is no organised anti-rationalising housewives have been complaining privately in months that sometimes the meat to which their books entitle them has been available in the shops.

A group of Havana recently refused to transport arriving cargo of chick Nicaragua, an informant source told Reuters.

Cuba has been adding to left-wing government since it took power in a recent year. The dockers' food was needed in Cuba.

Volunteers were brought another section of the d carry out the transshipment not known whether those to do the work were paid.

REUTERS